

Brazil

COUNTRY:
Brazil

USAID FUNDING PERIOD:
September 1994-September 2003

PROJECT:
POMMAR At-Risk Youth Project

USAID AMOUNT:
\$10,440,000 (over a nine-year period)

IMPLEMENTING ORGANIZATION:
Partners of the Americas

PURPOSE

POMMAR (Prevention for At-Risk Boys and Girls) assists young people, aged 7 to 18, in urban areas of Salvador, Recife, and Fortaleza in northeastern Brazil, as well as in the nation's capital, Brasilia. The program promotes the holistic development of at-risk children and youth to become healthy and productive citizens by:

- Engaging society in decreasing violence against youth;
- Increasing the educational and vocational preparation of youth;
- Strengthening HIV/AIDS prevention and services; and
- Preventing and eradicating child labor.

POMMAR provides direct financial and technical support to local organizations and service networks, while also working to disseminate successful and replicable approaches that:

- Provide counseling, legal and protective services for victims of sexual violence, abuse, and commercial sexual exploitation of children and adolescents;
- Promote advocacy, coalition building, and public awareness campaigns that target social values and behaviors related to violence, abuse, and commercial sexual exploitation of children and adolescents;
- Strengthen educational services provided via non-governmental organizations by enhancing and com-

plementing the formal educational system, with special emphasis on market-oriented vocational training and the arts;

- Provide information to youth on sex education with emphasis on pregnancy prevention and the prevention of HIV/sexually transmitted infections;
- Implement services and monitor public policies to prevent and eradicate child labor practices in urban areas; and
- Promote participation of youth in civic activities, paving the way for youth to exercise their rights, develop civic skills, and take control of their lives by learning to define coherent objectives and life goals.

KEY ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- 3,558 children and youth (1,301 boys and 2,257 girls) directly benefited from project activities in 2000;
- 21,210 family members and peers of POMMAR-assisted children benefited indirectly in 2000;
- 88 percent of POMMAR-assisted youth are regularly promoted to the next school grade, compared with a regional average of 68 percent;
- 34 percent of assisted youth have secured income-generating work after completing vocational training;
- Reported pregnancy rates were less than 1 percent among 1,000 girls assisted by the project, compared with 18 percent nationwide;

- 80 social and street educators were trained to develop more effective practices to increase the impact of intervention strategies with at-risk children and youth;
- A service network in Salvador reaches at-risk children and adolescents in 40 communities, 83 schools, and more than 100 local institutions. As a result of the 261 training events carried out by this network in 2000, public schools in Salvador incorporated art education into their curricula and participating nongovernmental organizations had the chance to build their capacity in management and administration;
- POMMAR's technical support led to the elaboration of a national plan to combat sexual exploitation and abuse.

PRIORITY ACTIVITIES, 2001–2002

- Consolidate networks and service projects in counseling, legal, and protective services for victims of sexual violence/abuse and commercial sexual exploitation;
- Consolidate educational and vocational projects;
- Define and implement an expanded HIV/AIDS prevention and assistance strategy to support children affected by HIV/AIDS and prevent transmission among youth; and
- Implement child labor prevention and eradication initiatives that monitor and complement public policies to address harmful practices in urban areas (emphasizing garbage dump workers and street vendors) through education, family preservation, and income generation interventions.

PROJECT MATERIALS AND TOOLS

- Visit the POMMAR website at <http://www.embaixadaamericana.org.br/usaidthm>

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

The project can provide expertise for other orphans and vulnerable children projects in the following areas:

- Education;
- Vocational training;
- Arts education;
- Sexual abuse and exploitation;
- Child labor eradication; and
- Citizen participation for youth.

CONTACT INFORMATION

POMMAR/USAID-Partners of the Americas:
Stuart A. Beechler, Project Director (Recife, PE)
(pommar@trunet.com.br)

Tel: 55-81-421-3218, Fax: 55-81-423-4182;
Rita Ippolito, Technical Director, Brasília, DF
(tdco@terra.com.br)
Tel: 55-61-328-4001, Fax 55-61-328-3755;
www.partners.net/English/programs/descriptions/pom_eng.htm

USAID/Washington:
Lloyd Feinberg (lfeinberg@usaid.gov)

USAID/Brazil:
Nena Lentini, Program Officer
(Brasília, DF) (nlentini@usaid.gov),
Lawrence Odle (lodle@usaid.gov)